

WILLMAR CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WILLMAR MUNICIPAL UTILITIES BUILDING
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA

March 2, 2015
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Willmar City Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Marv Calvin. Members present on a roll call were Mayor Calvin, Council Members Ron Christianson, Andrew Plowman, Denis Anderson, Rick Fagerlie, Jim Dokken, Audrey Nelsen and Tim Johnson; Present 8, Absent 1. Council Member Steve Ahmann was excused from the meeting.

Also present were City Administrator Charlene Stevens, City Clerk Kevin Halliday, Police Chief Jim Felt, Finance Director Steve Okins, Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson, Community Education and Recreation Director Steve Brisendine, Public Works Director Sean Christensen and City Attorney Robert Scott.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion adopting the Consent Agenda which included the following: City Council Minutes of February 17, Rice Hospital Board Minutes of February 18, Municipal Utilities Commission Minutes of February 23, Planning Commission Minutes of February 18, and Accounts Payable Report through February 25, 2015. Council Member Christianson seconded the motion, which carried.

At 7:01 p.m. Mayor Calvin opened a hearing to consider the 2015 Street and Other Improvements. Public Works Director Sean Christensen gave a brief overview and presented the proposed improvements for 2015 via a PowerPoint presentation. He explained the three areas of the proposed improvements being street reconstruction (just under .5 mile), overlay (3 miles) and various miscellaneous projects such as sanitary sewer lining, parking lots, storm pond and path improvements, crack seal and seal coat and street lighting on 12th Street SE. It was noted the areas of funding for the proposed projects include monies from the Willmar Municipal Utilities, assessments, Community Investment Funds, State Aid, Local Option Sales Tax, Kandiyohi County, wastewater funds and bond proceeds. The estimated total cost for the 2015 Improvements is \$1,842,004.00.

Bruce Watland of 1209 Carolina Avenue SW asked about trees that were already removed on Carolina Avenue and requested Public Works Director Sean Christensen to address the issue. Mr. Christensen explained that there were several areas where tree roots had damaged the curb and gutter causing street ponding and any damage to the roots from the construction may cause the trees to become a liability. Upon hearing all those who wished to be heard, Mayor Calvin closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Following discussion, Resolution Nos. 1-3 were introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Anderson, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 1

**ORDERING 2015 STREET AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS
(AND DIRECTING PREPARATION OF FINAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS)**

WHEREAS, after due Notice of Public Hearing on the construction of street and other improvements for the City of Willmar, Minnesota, hearing on said improvements was duly held and the Council heard all persons desiring to be heard on the matter and fully considered the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, Minnesota, as follows:

1. It is advisable, expedient, and necessary that said improvements as described in the Notice of Hearing thereon be constructed and the same are hereby ordered made.
2. The improvements described in said Notice of Hearing are hereby designated and shall be known as 2015 Street and Other Improvements.
3. The City's Engineer is hereby directed to prepare final plans and specifications for said improvements.
4. The City Council shall let the contract for all or part of the work for said improvements or order all or part of the work done by day labor or otherwise as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.041, Subdivision 2, within one year of the date of this resolution ordering said improvements.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS the City Engineer of the City of Willmar has presented to the City Council plans and specifications for Project Nos. 1501-A, 1502, 1503-A, 1503-B, 1504, 1505, and 1509 for the City of Willmar;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that:

Final plans and specifications are hereby approved, and publication of the advertisement for bids is herewith authorized. Multiple bid packages will be publicly opened and read with the first opening scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on the 7th day of April, 2015, at the City Office Building, 333 Southwest Sixth Street, Willmar, Minnesota.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Resolution No. 3

PRELIMINARY 2015 STREET IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET

OTHER SERVICES:		RECEIVABLES:	
Mntc. Of Other Impr.	\$1,485,883.00	Assessments Property Owners	\$ 474,077.00
Other Services	<u>\$ 148,589.00</u>	Community Investment	\$ 785,923.00
TOTAL	\$1,634,472.00	State Aid	\$ 311,772.00
		LOST	\$ 142,736.00
		WTP	\$ 19,098.00
		MUC	\$ 32,611.00
		Kandiyohi County	<u>\$ 90,000.00</u>
		TOTAL	\$1,856,217.00

OTHER CHARGES	
Licenses and Taxes	\$ 207,533.00
Other Charges	<u>\$ 14,210.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 221,745.00

FINANCING:	
Bonds	\$1,260,000.00
State Aid	\$ 311,772.00
LOST	\$ 142,736.00
WTP	\$ 19,098.00
MUC	\$ 32,611.00
Kandiyohi County	<u>\$ 90,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,856,217.00

GRAND TOTAL	\$1,856,217.00
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Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Calvin opened a hearing to consider adopting an ordinance amending water rates charged by Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission. General Manager Wesley Hompe introduced Finance Director Tim Hunstad who gave details on the proposed water rate increase that would take effect June 1, 2015. The last increase in water rates was January 1, 2012. A peer group study found that Willmar's water rates were incredibly lower than some of those peers. The water production assets are approaching 80% fully depreciated and need upgrades and replacements. The future plan includes extensive capital expenditures to both the Northeast water plant in 2018 and the Southwest water plant in 2022. Refurbishing of these water plants are approximately \$5-6 million for each plant. The rate increase of 20% will affect a typical residential bill by \$2-4 a month. There being no one present to speak for or against the ordinance, Mayor Calvin closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Council Member Christianson raised the question as to why the increase was only being applied to residential customers and not commercial or industrial. General Manager Wesley Hompe explained in the Cost of Service Study these classes were separated out to identify where the costs truly were, and as a result the cost to serve a residential customer was higher than what they were charging.

Council Member Plowman offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Water Rates Charged by the Municipal Utilities Commission. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 6, Noes 1, with Council Member Christianson casting the "no" vote.

At 7:45 p.m. Mayor Calvin opened a hearing to consider adopting an ordinance amending electric rates charged by Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission. Finance Director Tim Hunstad explained that the last increase in electric rates was 7% on July 1, 2011 and an additional 7% January 1, 2012. He explained that in 2012 the total utility operating expenses were \$24.8 million and in 2015 they have increased to an estimated \$31.7 million or a 28% increase over four years. The total expenses were broken out and explained to the Council in percentages. The electric rate increase being proposed is 4.5% and the CPI growth from 2012 to now is 5.2%, putting the increase in line with inflation over that period of time. This increase is the same for residential and commercial.

Chris Peterson of 419 - 12th Street NW inquired as to what effect the increase will have on meter rates and fixed charges. He inquired as the useful life of the coal plant and what costs are expected. He commented on the wastewater treatment plant not being able to meet the salty discharge requirements. Mayor Calvin clarified the salty discharge falls under the City's jurisdiction and affects the sewer rates.

General Manager Wesley Hompe stated the coal plant is currently under study and meter revenues go toward infrastructure improvements with fixed charges being rolled into the energy rate. Mr. Peterson commented that it doesn't seem like it pays to conserve because the rates continue to go up.

Bob Skor, 617 SW 14th Street, questioned how corrosive salty discharge affects the system? Public Works Director Christensen commented that it is minimal, especially with PVC pipe. Mr. Skor reiterated on Mr. Peterson's comment on conservation cutting back on revenue, thereby causing rates to increase.

General Manager Hompe explained in detail the need for upcoming infrastructure improvements and the method used to model the rate study. After hearing all those who wished to speak for or against the ordinance, Mayor Calvin closed the hearing at 8:04 p.m.

Council Member Anderson offered a motion to adopt, assign a number and order final publication of the Ordinance Amending Electric Rates Charged by the Municipal Utilities Commission. Council Member Nelsen seconded the motion, which carried on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Mayor Calvin acknowledged Bob Skor, 617 SW 14th Street, who wished to speak at Open Forum. He voiced his opinion on undocumented people's ability to get their driver's license, the increase in border guards and veterans who fought against terrorists to make this country safe. He commented on Minnesota and Willmar officials backing a bill which allows illegal and undocumented individuals to obtain a driver's license and about a group called Justice for All who wants to give felons the right to vote.

The Finance Committee Report for February 23, 2015 was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Anderson. There were four items for consideration.

Item No. 1 There were no comments from the public.

Item No. 2 The Committee reviewed the City Investment Policy Document that requires an annual review even if there are no recommended changes. The Committee had questions relating to Section 8.8 dealing with Mutual Funds, who had developed the policy and if the City Clerk is the staff member who makes the final decision and recommendation on types of investments purchased. It was the recommendation of the Committee that no changes be made to the policy. This item was received by the Council for information only.

Item No. 3 Staff explained to the Committee the estimated operating costs and suggested fees for the City Auditorium. The renovation project is nearing completion and the Community Ed & Recreation programs will again get underway. In order to set user fees and gun training charges for the activities in the remodeled gun range, staff has assembled estimated annual operational costs for the gun range. Incorporating the historical collection of user fees and Conceal and Carry class sizes, "Suggested Usage Rates" were offered for Council consideration. The estimated annual operating costs would be approximately \$26,486.00. Revenue generated with rates presented is estimated at \$27,290.00.

The City could choose to operate the range as a Community Ed & Recreation program and provide staffing or to contract with another entity, such as the Willmar Pistol and Rifle Club, to operate the facility. The Committee discussed all the variable options and following discussion recommended the Council direct staff to explore 1) contracting with Certified Range Masters, 2) use the rates as presented, and to also 3) staff the Auditorium facilities at all times it is open. Council Member Anderson made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation. Council Member Fagerlie seconded the motion, which carried.

Item No. 4 Due to the City Council questioning some departmental overages in the 2014 budget, questions centered on timing, information notification provided, and format presented. The Committee reviewed a couple of different formatted examples of monthly general fund budgetary status reports, and discussed handling future processes and procedures for budgetary overages. It was the

consensus of the Committee, to continue to use and refine a combination of the formats presented. This matter received for information only.

Council Member Christianson asked for clarification on the motion passed for operation of the Gun Range at the City Auditorium and the rates approved by Council. Council Member made a motion to reconsider the motion. Council Member Plowman seconded the motion, which failed on a voice vote.

The Finance Committee Report for February 23, 2015, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, and carried.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report for February 24, 2015 was presented to the Mayor and Council by Council Member Christianson. There were nine items for consideration.

Item No. 1 There were no public comments.

Item No. 2 Police Chief Jim Felt noted the jail census for February 24, 2015 was 141; 59 inmates from the Department of Corrections, 1 inmate from Stearns County, 1 inmate from Big Stone County, and 1 inmate from Swift County. The calls for service for the previous two weeks totaled 647. The majority of the calls were for traffic stops, followed by public assists and crash reports. The new canine Axel is completing his final week of narcotics training and next month will start a ten-week patrol and tracking training program.

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson noted there have been 53 calls for service this year so far. The calls have been primarily for false alarms, followed by hazardous conditions and several fires so far this year. A report on the 2014/2015 Willmar Fire Department statistics was given. The 2014 statistics detailed calls for service were mainly from false alarms, followed by fires and hazardous conditions. Fridays held the largest amount of fire calls of the week and there were average of 17 firefighters on a call.

Item No. 3 Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson presented a recommendation to approve the lease agreement with Midwest Wireless Communications, L.L.C. d/b/a Verizon Wireless for the installation and maintenance of a communication antenna facility and related incidental equipment. The duration of the lease is noted at five years with an annual rent of \$15,000. They would like to replace the existing emergency communications tower at the Fire Department with a monopole cell tower to improve Verizon cellular customer's coverage. The tower will also hold the Police, Fire, and other emergency services space at no charge to the City, as well as any future communication equipment needed for that service at no charge also. An additional \$3,000 in legal fees will be provided by Verizon, and for each additional carrier utilizing the tower, it will generate another \$5,000 a year.

The Committee was recommending the Council approve the lease agreement with Midwest Wireless Communications, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless for the installation and maintenance of a communication antenna facility in the annual amount of \$15,000 for five years.

Resolution No. 4 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 4

WHEREAS the City of Willmar desires to enter into a Lease Agreement with Midwest Wireless Communications, LLC d/b/a Verizon Wireless for the installation and maintenance of a communication antenna facility and related incidental equipment at the Willmar Fire Department facility; and

WHEREAS an agreement has been prepared detailing the terms of the lease;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that said agreement be approved and that the Mayor and City Administrator be authorized to execute the same.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin

Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday

Attest: City Clerk

Item No. 4 Staff presented a recommendation to approve the purchase and replacement of the rubber flooring in the Cardinal Arena and Blue Line Arena from All-American Arena Products. Quotes were solicited from All-American Arena Products in the amount of \$54,540 and Arena Warehouse in the amount of \$85,800.00. The quote from All-American Arena Products includes a credit for exchange of unused corrugated steel and screws at the Civic Center in the amount of \$20,850. Arena Manager Troy Ciernia noted it will not only bring the cost down of replacing the flooring, but also free up space in the Civic Center where the steel is being stored. The Capital Outlay Program includes \$25,000 from unused funds for replacing cedar shakes and \$30,000 to \$35,000 in estimated profits from the sale of the Zamboni. The new flooring will have a twenty year life and be installed using glue, allowing for better maintenance.

The Committee was recommending the Council approve the purchase and replacement of the rubber flooring replacement in the Civic Center from All-American Arena Products.

Resolution No. 5 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 5

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Minnesota, that the quote of All-American Arena Products of Alden, Minnesota for the replacement of the rubber flooring in the Civic Center is accepted, and be it further resolved that the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Willmar are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the contractor for the terms and consideration of the contract in the amount of \$54,540.00.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin

Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday

Attest: City Clerk

Item No. 5 Staff brought forth, for review and acceptance, the proposed changes to the Sign Retroreflectivity policy. The goal of the policy is to improve public safety on the City's streets by meeting the minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and was adopted by Council on June 16, 2014. The proposed changes include removal of a portion of the Sign Inventory section detailing the type, location, and maintenance of the signs and adding in a Blanket Replacement giving the City an interval of twelve years to replace existing signs. The City will be divided into twelve sections and each year one section will have all signs replaced. The cost impact of this policy will vary by the sizes, location, and number of signs and the Public Works Department will replace signs throughout the year in the designated section as time allows. The Committee was recommending adoption of the changes to the Sign Retroreflectivity policy.

Resolution No. 6 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 6

WHEREAS the City of Willmar adopted a sign retroreflectivity policy on June 16, 2014 to meet the minimum sign retroreflectivity requirements in the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD).

WHEREAS proposed changes to the policy, including removal of a portion of the Sign Inventory section and replacing it with a Blanket Replacement giving the City an interval of twelve years to replace existing signs, is requested.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Willmar, hereby amends the former adopted policy of sign retroreflectivity.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Item No. 6 Staff requested approval to purchase/replace four existing Kubota Mowers in accordance with the 2015 Capital Outlay Program and Vehicle/Equipment Replacement Policy. The new Kubota mowers are to be purchased from Haug Kubota Implement through the National Joint Powers Alliance in the amount of \$72,695. Two units are Model F3900 mowers with cabs for \$51,113, one unit is a ZD331LP-72 mower for \$10,480, and one unit is a B3350HSD mower/compact tractor for \$11,082. Haug Kubota has given a very positive trade value allowance and is reflected in the prices. The current mowers are used frequently throughout the summer and winter months and are showing signs of mechanical issues and metal fatigue. Public Works Superintendent Scott Ledebor noted the CIP included an estimated \$127,628 for the replacement of the unit. The trade in values came in higher than anticipated. The Committee recommended the Council approve the purchase and replacement of the Kubota mowers from Haug Kubota Implement in the amount of \$72,695.

Resolution No. 7 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 7

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Minnesota, that the purchase of four Kubota mowers through the National Joint Powers Alliance is accepted, and be it further resolved that the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Willmar are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the bidder for the terms and consideration of the contract in the amount of \$72,695.00.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Item No. 7 Staff presented information regarding the replacement of the Welcome to Willmar sign on Highway 71. The original sign was demolished in an accident in May of 2014. Quotes were solicited for the replacement of the sign, with one quote received from Quick Signs of Willmar. The quote details replacing the sign on the existing pad as it was originally constructed. An option of installing a full digital sign was discussed, as well as the option of updating the sign with a new logo. Staff recommended constructing a

sign matching the signs at the other highway entrances into the City for the following reasons. A new digital sign was quoted at nearly three times the cost of the original, and it is not known if there will be the required amount of power available to the site and the programming of the sign requires an employee physically at the sign location. There was nothing budgeted for a full digital sign and insurance will only cover the cost of the original. The Committee noted it would be too small to convert to digital on the existing pad and recommended the Council approve the replacement of the Welcome to Willmar sign on Highway 71 to its original design.

Resolution No. 8 was introduced by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 8

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Minnesota, that the quote of Quick Signs of Willmar, Minnesota for the replacement of the Welcome to Willmar sign is accepted, and be it further resolved that the Mayor and City Administrator of the City of Willmar are hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the contractor for the terms and consideration of the contract in the amount of \$6,569.00.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Item No. 8 The Committee discussed the continued efforts for stormwater control. The Civic Center Drive pond is scheduled for improvements this year and will be cleaned out to make it more functional. The possibility of a sub-committee for new developments to focus on zero net increases in stormwater runoff was debated. Staff noted zero net increases and other design options is already being considered and reviewed on all new developments in the City limits. Staff noted there is no discrimination between residential and commercial developments for stormwater prevention. Stormwater prevention policies in other states were discussed. The summary memo previously submitted by the interim City Engineer of the Barr report was requested for review. This was received by the Council for information only.

Item No. 9 There were no items for new business.

The Public Works/Safety Committee Report for February 24, 2015, was approved as presented and ordered placed on file in the City Clerk's Office upon motion by Council Member Christianson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, and carried.

City Clerk Kevin Halliday explained the City continues to attempt to hire a qualified, Accredited Assessor. In the interim an agreement was prepared by City Attorney Robert Scott to contract with a qualified SAMA Certified Assessor for \$50.00 an hour on a part-time basis estimating a minimum time commitment of three office days per two week period plus office hours available by phone. This will allow the City to be in compliance with the 90-day State requirement. The resume of Steve Behrenbrinker and the proposed contract were reviewed and it was staff's recommendation to enter into the agreement.

Resolution No. 9 was introduced by Council Member Fagerlie, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 9

WHEREAS the City of Willmar desires to retain an individual to provide assessment services for the City; and

WHEREAS an agreement has been prepared to retain Steve Behrenbrinker, a Private Assessor, for said services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar that said agreement is approved and that the City Administrator and City Clerk are authorized to execute the same.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

Fire Chief Gary Hendrickson brought before the Council information relating to a grant for which the Fire Department applied from the Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for hazardous materials technician training. Chief Hendrickson has since been notified that the City has been awarded \$13,584.00 for the purposes of hazardous materials technician training. The grant does require a 20% match by the City of \$3,396.00 to be expended from the Fire Department Training Budget.

Resolution No. 10 was introduced by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Fagerlie, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 10

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Willmar to approve an application by the Willmar Fire Department for, and the acceptance of, a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant from the Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

City Administrator Charlene Stevens presented a resolution in support of funding for City streets. The resolution was adopted on February 19th by the League of Minnesota Cities Board of Directors to demonstrate support for new dedicated state funding for City streets. The resolution follows a directive by the LMC Board to support an omnibus transportation funding bill that would provide additional dedicated funding for City streets. The resolution is non-binding, but will demonstrate support for the League's efforts to work with the State on sustainable funding.

Following discussion by the Council, Resolution No.11 was introduced by Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Nelsen, reviewed by Mayor Calvin, and approved on a roll call vote of Ayes 7, Noes 0.

Resolution No. 11

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEDICATED STATE FUNDING FOR CITY STREETS

WHEREAS, Minnesota contains over 141,000 miles of roadway, and over 19,000 miles—or 13 percent--are owned and maintained by Minnesota's 852 cities; and

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of municipal streets are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, the more than 700 Minnesota cities with populations below 5,000 are ineligible for dedicated Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars; and

WHEREAS, city streets are a separate but integral piece of the network of roads supporting movement of people and goods; and

WHEREAS, existing funding mechanisms, such as Municipal State Aid (MSA), property taxes and special assessments, have limited applications, leaving cities under-equipped to address growing needs; and

WHEREAS, city cost participation in state and county highway projects diverts resources from city-owned streets; and

WHEREAS, maintenance costs increase as road systems age, and no city--large or small—is spending enough on roadway capital improvements to maintain a 50-year lifecycle; and

WHEREAS, for every one dollar spent on maintenance, a road authority--and therefore taxpayers--save seven dollars in repairs; and

WHEREAS, cities need greater resources, including an additional dedicated state funding source for transportation, and flexible policies in order to meet growing demands for street improvements and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WILLMAR that the City of Willmar supports an omnibus transportation funding bill that provides additional dedicated state funding for city streets including funding that can be used for non-MSA city street maintenance, construction and reconstruction.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2015.

/s/ Marv Calvin
Mayor

/s/ Kevin Halliday
Attest: City Clerk

City Administrator Charlene Stevens updated the Council on the efforts to organize a Council Retreat and stated based on further feedback received by herself and Mayor Calvin; it doesn't appear to be in the best interests to pursue the retreat at this time. Mayor Calvin added from what he has heard, the Council wants a retreat, but the timing is not right. A retreat will be pursued.

Council Member Nelsen commented on an email sent out by Mayor Calvin earlier and felt it should be made public to let people know what was said and by whom so they can understand why the Council is unable to do a retreat at this time.

Council Member Anderson commented that the retreat is needed and asked what type of time frame the Mayor is looking at. Council Member Nelsen stated there is no sense of trust and the community deserves more than that and wonders where the Council is going.

Council Member Christianson stated over the next two months the full Council will not be here at many meetings and that is one of the main reasons for the delay. We need the full Council to proceed with the retreat. Council Member Nelsen reiterated on the Council having made a commitment and there will never be a right time unless we commit to it. Mayor Calvin stated he has learned in the last month and half not to put timelines out there. Mayor Calvin agrees a retreat needs to happen and will work with the City Administrator to make it happen.

Announcements for Council Committee meeting dates were as follows: Finance, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall, March 9; Public Works/Safety, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall, March 10; Labor Relations, 4:45 p.m. at City Hall, March 25, 2015.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. upon motion by Council Member Anderson.

Attest:

MAYOR

SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL